



Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects

Sturgeon Chub

Macrhybopsis gelida

Common name • Sturgeon chub

Scientific name • *Macrhybopsis gelida*

Federal status • None

State status • None

Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. Please contact the Department of Conservation if habitat management information is needed. Because every project and location differ, following the recommendations in this document does not guarantee impacts will not occur to the species and additional information may be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations in this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

Ecology

Sturgeon chub inhabit the Missouri River from Montana to Missouri and the Mississippi River downstream from the confluence of these rivers. They prefer swift current in large, silty rivers that have sand and fine gravel bottoms. Chubs eat bottom-dwelling invertebrates that they find using taste buds that cover their fins, head, and body. They spawn from late spring to mid-summer. Adult sturgeon chub are typically 1.7-3.0 inches in length.

Reasons for Decline

Surveys conducted during the 1940s showed that the sturgeon chub was not very common in Missouri. Sturgeon chubs are now more commonly found in the lower Missouri River but remain uncommon in the Mississippi River. Channelization activities that destroy shallow shoals with gravel greatly reduce habitat for young-of-the-year sturgeon chub. Changed natural flow regimen and reduced turbidity caused by Missouri River mainstream reservoirs have degraded sturgeon chub habitat. Other negative factors likely include non-point source pollution and degradation of riparian areas.

Specific Recommendations

Missouri contains one of the best populations of sturgeon chub in its historical range. It is important to protect shallow shoals and large rivers to help ensure the survival of this species.

- Project activities should not occur below water levels between April 15 and August 30 and should avoid main channel areas.
- Practices that will increase siltation or erosion should be avoided.
- Channelization and impoundments should be avoided in areas where there is available habitat for sturgeon chubs.

General Recommendations

Refer to *Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Affecting Missouri Rivers and Streams*.

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or the [Missouri Department of Transportation Environmental Studies webpage](#) for additional information on recommendations.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

For species information:

[Missouri Department of Conservation](#)
Science Branch
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573-751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
Ecological Services
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203-0007
Telephone: 573-234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

[Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#)
Water Protection Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573-751-1300, 800-361-4827

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816-389-3990

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

EPA Region 7 Water Division
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Telephone: 913-551-7977

Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or Local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.